

OSGOLDCROSS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1940

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

In view of the present national circumstances the Ministry of Health in a circular letter indicate a brief annual report for the year 1940, and this I now have the honour of presenting.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

The area of the District remains at 33,970 acres.
Population, Registrar General's estimate, 7,356.
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1940, 2,135.
Rateable value, £27,817.
Sum represented by ld. rate, £108.

The population as given by the Registrar General is some 200 below that of the previous year. Presumably this is on account of movements resulting from the war; residents joining the Forces, etc. This is complicated by the influx of women and children under Government Evacuation schemes, up to 250 of these being in the District at one time.

There were also Military detachments of varying numbers in the District for varying periods.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
<u>Live Births.</u>			
Legitimate	58	67	125
Illegitimate	2	1	3
Totals	60	68	128

Birth Rate per 1,000 population, 17.4

<u>Stillbirths.</u>	1	1	2
Legitimate	0	0	0
Illegitimate	0	1	1

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births, 23

<u>Deaths.</u>			
All causes	50	38	88

Death Rate per 1,000 population, 11.96

Puerperal causes	0	0	0
Cancer	4	4	8
Measles	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0	0	0

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age;
All Infants per 1,000 live births, 31.25
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births, 24.
There was 1 death of an Illegitimate Infant under 1 year old.

The Birth Rate for the country is 14.6 : the Rate of 17.4 for this District is therefore above it but is a reduction on last year's Rate which was 19.83.

The Death Rate for the country is 14.3 and for this District 11.9 (last year 12.81).

The Infantile Death Rate for the country is 55, and for this District 31.25 (last year 73.33).

It will be seen that the vital statistics compare favourably with the average for the whole country, and although the birth rate is down the other rates are also down showing an improvement in this District compared with last year.

*The principal causes of death were Heart Disease 27 cases, Bronchitis 22 cases, Cancer 8 cases, and Pneumonia 4 cases.

Cancer cases were the same number as the previous year but the number of other diseases named were an increase though the total number of deaths was less.

The low Infantile Death Rate and the absence of deaths from Diarrhoea of children under 2 years old are pleasing features of the statistics.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of cases notified:		No. of deaths.
Scarlet Fever	11	0
Whooping Cough	1	0
Diphtheria	2	0
Erysipelas	1	0
Measles	23	0
Pneumonia	6	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	2	1
Tuberculosis		
Pulmonary	3	2
Other forms	1	0

These are exclusive of 2 cases of Diphtheria and 1 case of Measles occurring amongst non-civilians.

The rates are less than those for the country and may be considered low.

The 4 cases of Tuberculosis notified are a reduction of 3 on the previous year which itself was a reduction on previous figures.

With reference to the reception into the District of persons under Evacuation schemes and the presence of Military personnel, it is satisfactory to note that no marked effect on the health of the population was noticed.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES are dealt with in the report of your Sanitary Inspector, Mr Ledwith, appended hereto, and there appears to be no further matter calling for comment.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. KEHELLY,

Medical Officer of Health.

OSCOLDCROSS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1940

NUISANCES

Number of primary inspections	191
Number of cases in which nuisance found	172
Number outstanding 1939	<u>12</u>
	184
Abated 1940	<u>175</u>
Outstanding	9

No Statutory Notices were served.

The number relating to defective conditions at houses was 142.

HOUSING.

Number of houses inspected and recorded under Housing Acts and Regulations.
19; 1 unfit, 5 defective.

Unfit houses repaired - 1
closed - 1
demolished - None

Defective houses repaired - 14.

Action under Public Health Acts.

Houses examined for vermin	12
Disinfested	3
No vermin in 9 cases	
Houses inspected in connection with overcrowding	17
Cases of overcrowding abated	6
No fresh cases noted	
Houses inspected in connection with water supply, sanitary accommodation, etc.	47
Houses at which work required or undertaken	26
Houses at which work completed	14

No Statutory Notices

The total number of houses erected during the year was 18.
Of these 11 were built by the Council at Fairburn, the special
agricultural grant being obtained in respect of one house. The special
grant in respect of agricultural housing was also obtained by the
owner of two houses privately built.

The number of houses in the District at the end of the year was 2140.

WATER

With the exception of the connection of a few more houses with
supply mains there has been no alteration regarding water supplies.
Piped supplies have been ample and the quality has remained satisfactory.
Thirteen samples from piped supplies were bacteriologically examined
three of which were reported unsatisfactory. In each case check samples
were submitted for examination these being reported satisfactory.

Samples from 7 private pumps were submitted for analysis. Two were reported unsatisfactory, one being from a rain-water storage tank which was not necessary to use for drinking water or culinary purposes. In the other case a supply was subsequently taken from the Council's main.

SCAVENGING

The Council have not undertaken any additional scavenging and the method of doing this work by contract has continued. A spell of very wintry weather rather seriously interfered with the work; otherwise, with official prompting, reasonably good conditions generally obtained.

Contractors expressed difficulty regarding petrol and labour and there were indications that it might be difficult to arrange new contracts.

Only two privies were converted to water-closets. These were without contribution from the Council.

The total number of w.c.'s. in the District at the end of the year was approximately 1,466; privies 984; soil closets 246; and dust bins 1,671.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Twelve cases of Scarlet Fever were notified as against 16 the preceding year. One case was a soldier in a temporary military hospital who had been brought in from another district. Four of the cases occurred in Whitley, 2 in Aug., 1 in Sept., and 1 in Oct. The other cases were widely distributed.

Of the 4 cases of Diphtheria notified (1 less than the preceding year), 3 were soldiers in the military hospital already mentioned. The other case was a man 20 years old.

The number of Tuberculosis cases notified further declined to 4 (3 pulmonary), probably the lowest since notification became compulsory.

The 2 cases of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis which occurred in the District appeared to have no connection with each other. A third case with which we were concerned was a visitor undergoing treatment outside the District who was found to be suffering from this disease.

Measles and Whooping Cough became notifiable during the year and 21 cases were notified (including 3 soldiers at a military hospital) at fairly regular intervals throughout the year.

Disinfection was carried out at 20 houses; 3 on account of Tuberculosis.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The slaughtering of animals for human food having been taken over by the Government and conducted at centralised slaughter-houses, none of which is in this District, there were no slaughterhouses operating or licensed in the District.

The premises continued in use for the storage and sale of meat and were satisfactorily kept for the purpose. Examination showed the meat to be satisfactory as regards freedom from disease though some difficulty was experienced at times in keeping meat, especially imported meat, in good condition. I found none however exposed or offered for sale that was not sound.

No notification was received under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations of intention to slaughter animals.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The number of premises registered in the District for the production of milk declined slightly to 96. From 36 of these premises the milk was sold wholesale, 21 of the producers retailed their milk and the remainder made butter or sold only small quantities of milk to their neighbours. There were 4 others registered retailers who did not produce milk but had premises in the District, and 2 retailers without premises in the District.

Visits numbering 150 were paid to the premises.

Although war time conditions added to producers' labour and other difficulty and there was some falling off in the hygienic standards, in some cases, very reasonable conditions were generally maintained.

A few cases were noted where limewashing had not been carried out, the cows were not clean (really very few cases), milking stools not clean, milk not covered in cowshed, etc., and were suitably dealt with without recourse to formal action.

The piling of manure in the fold yards near cowsheds and sometimes necessitating crossing the manure to obtain access to the cowsheds continues to be one of the objections difficult to obviate.

A cow at one dairy died of Anthrax, and milk from this cow having been mixed with other milk which had been churned, the butter was taken by the County Council in accordance with statutory requirements.

A case of Scarlet Fever occurred in the family of the occupier of a producing dairy; the requisite precautions were taken and no further case developed.

One new cowshed was constructed and structural improvements were carried out to three other cowsheds.

Two milk storage and cooling rooms were constructed, one a large one to replace a small one.

There are 4 producers of Accredited Milk in the District.

There is one Supplementary Licence to sell Pasteurised Milk in force.

GORDON LEDWITH.

